

anybody in the political business would dare to vote against something that's saying, hey, it's \$5 a gallon for gasoline or unemployment is at 15 percent. Actually, that's not such an odd idea because Spain has put in this same thing that is being proposed here. Their unemployment now is 17.5 percent, and they're suffering. They're calling all the green jobs "subprime jobs."

Thank you very much, Congressman SHIMKUS.

We're joined by a very sober judge from the State of Texas, my good friend, Judge CARTER. Welcome to our discussion this evening. Let's talk a little bit about these taxes.

Mr. CARTER. Well, some of the things that our friend Congressman SHIMKUS said are pretty sobering.

Mr. AKIN. Yes, they're sobering. They even make a judge sober. I yield.

Mr. CARTER. We're saying \$5 a gallon for gasoline with that increase being caused by this tax-and-trade scheme that's being sold to the Congress as some kind of clean-up-the-world project. We think that at least ought to raise the issue and should slow down the process. Yet they say, No. Let's see what's going to happen when it gets to be \$5 a gallon.

Let's think in our recent past as to what happens when gasoline gets to \$5 a gallon. Well, of course it's going to be the evil oil companies' fault that secretly have made deals with each other to fix prices and to make them go up. That's why, when they said the electricity bills are going to go up, we just said that we wanted them to say on the electricity bill what caused this to go up. Well, it happens to be our cap-and-tax program that caused it to go up. That's fair. The American people ought to know what caused the doubling of their electricity bills. Guess what they're going to say? Oh, the evil power companies have jacked the prices up to bilk the poor consumers. Truth and sunshine is what this government needs. Put the truth in the bill.

Mr. AKIN. That's absolutely right. I appreciate the gentleman's perspective, and that's coming from a judge.

You want to know what has happened and exactly what's going on. Don't put this behind smoke and mirrors. We're talking here about comparing the cost of these taxes being proposed. This is the cost of World War II right here, this big blue circle. This cap-and-trade here at \$1.9 trillion is a tremendous, tremendous tax. The other wars—this thing here—would be the war in Afghanistan and the terrorist wars and all. All of these are small by comparison to what's being proposed.

So what does that mean for the average family? What are their costs going to be?

Well, you can see the energy here. The blue here is gasoline, and the gasoline is going to jump 16 percent. This is just by 2012. You're going to see a 16 percent increase in the cost of gasoline. The green is electricity. That's going

to jump 9 percent, and that's just the beginning. That's only by 2012. Then you've got natural gas, which is going to jump 14 percent. Now, when the economy is rough and people are having trouble with unemployment, this somehow or other seems like a pretty strange thing to be talking about, a massive tax increase like this.

We're joined by my good friend from Georgia, and I would yield time to the doctor.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think the American people need to understand what this is going to mean to them directly. I think these charts are great. As Judge CARTER said, I think the facts that Mr. SHIMKUS gave us were absolutely sobering, but there are a number of people in this House of Representatives who have openly said that they would like to see gas go up to \$10 a gallon. They think that that will start people conserving gas in America. Well, most folks can't afford \$10 a gallon gas. There are people in this House who want to federalize—nationalize—the whole of the energy system, and there are many Members of the Democrat majority who are promoting that. I think this may very well be the opening for them to try to nationalize it, just like Hugo Chavez has done in Venezuela, and that's exactly the picture that we see here in America.

What NANCY PELOSI and company are doing here in this Congress is they're going down the same road, and they're trying to force America into the same policies and down the same road that Hugo Chavez in Venezuela has taken that country down. Yet what is it going to cost each individual family?

It is estimated that every family is going to pay over \$1,000 in increased electricity costs. It's estimated that the tax, itself—I've seen various estimates—will be anywhere from over \$3,000 per family in America to over \$4,000 per family in America per year in increased taxes. It's going to increase the cost of food and of medicines. Every single good and service in this country is going to go up because every bit of food and every medicine—every good and service in America—is dependent upon energy. If you flip on the light switch, your bill is going up. If you go to the gas pump, your bill is going up. If you ride public transportation, the bill is going up. The bill is going up. The bill is going up for everything in this country. The American people need to say "no" to this idiotic, what I call, "tax-and-cap." The reason I call it "tax-and-cap" is because it is a huge tax. It's not about the environment.

The President, himself, said that this needs to pass so that he can fund his socialistic agenda. He didn't call it a "socialistic agenda," but that's exactly what it is. It's a big government agenda for health care. For every single thing that this country does, they want to do that.

Mr. AKIN. Dr. BROWN, I appreciate your firmness and your just basically calling this what it is.

An hour ago, we heard the Democrats talking about the fact that, oh, they're really into technology and innovation and all of this kind of stuff. This thing has nothing to do with technology or innovation. This is just a plain, old tax increase. It's a plain, old tax increase, but it's a big, whopping tax increase, is what we're dealing with here, and the justification is kind of amusing.

I'd like to take just a minute, and then I'm going to recognize my good friend, Congresswoman LUMMIS from Wyoming.

Having an engineering background, I kind of get interest out of it. How much human activity does it take to affect greenhouse gases? This block here of all of these boxes represents all of the greenhouse gases which comprise only 2 percent of the atmosphere. So these are all of the things that cause global warming. Most of this is water vapor. By the way, it's not CO₂, okay? Now then, this yellow stuff over here is the part of the greenhouse gases that is CO₂. Those are the yellow boxes. The little red box there is the CO₂ that is caused by human activity, and that little red box right there is the excuse for this whopping, big tax. Now, somehow or other, the logic of this just seems like a very, very thinly veiled excuse for a great big tax.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. AKIN. The thing that is the most amusing on this is that the one major source of energy that we have that makes no CO₂ is not being given any credit or is being pushed forward at all, which is nuclear power. We'll talk about that, but I want to yield to the gentlewoman from Wyoming, Congresswoman LUMMIS.

Thank you for joining us tonight. It's just a treat to have you here.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Thank you, Congressman AKIN. I appreciate being involved in this discussion.

This is a national energy tax. This will not solve our problems with pollution, but what will? Sometimes we Republicans are called the "party of no," and it's because we need opportunities to express our better ideas. Indeed, I believe we do have better ideas, and some of them are being illustrated by the chart that Mr. AKIN has on the board right now.

We have opportunities to clean up the technologies and sources of energy that we have right now. We have the opportunity to increase the number of hybrid and zero-emission vehicles on the road. We have the opportunity to increase wind and solar and biofuels. We have the opportunity to add to the amount of natural gas that we use because it is, by far, the cleanest burning hydrocarbon. We have opportunities to sequester the CO₂ that comes from coal, and as we know, coal is more than half of the electricity that is produced in this country. So, to abandon coal